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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application:	Subrata Mokerji	Group Art Unit:	1775
Serial No.:	10/073,527	Examiner:	Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date:	February 11, 2002	Docket No.:	500-3013-U
Title:	Zirconium Nitride Coating Having A Top Layer Thereon		

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

The present application is a continuation application claiming priority from U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/705,175 filed November 2, 2000. The continuation application as-filed contains 44 claims, 3 of which are independent. A Notice to File Missing Parts was issued on March 7, 2002, requesting the statutory basic filing fee, additional claim fees for 24 claims, and a late filing fee surcharge. However, applicant wishes to enter this Preliminary Amendment canceling many of the originally filed claims and replacing them with the following claims.

Therefore, following entry of this Preliminary Amendment, the application contains 20 claims, 6 of which are independent. Enclosed herewith is a Response to Notice To File Missing Parts of Nonprovisional Application including a check for \$1,522.00 which includes the statutory basic filing fee of \$740.00, the fee for 3 additional independent claims of \$252.00, the late filing fee surcharge of \$130.00, and a the fee for a two-month extension in which to respond to the Notice to File Missing Parts of \$400.00.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to our deposit account, Deposit Account No. 13-0265, for any and all such required fees due.